

**October** began with near record low's, and it ended with near record high's. There were scattered frost events during the first and fourth weeks of the month. In contrast, there were highs in the 80's in the third and last weeks of October. These two extremes caused the average monthly temperature to be near normal. October also marks the first month since March of this year that rainfall has been below normal with most weeks during October receiving below normal rainfall. For the most part, the 2nd half of October provided near perfect harvest conditions. Temperatures averaged 57 degrees across the State which was near normal. Rainfall totaled 2.42 inches statewide which was 0.49 inches below normal.

The near-record warmth and cold periods during **November** caused a "roller coaster" temperature ride during the month. Temperature values varied often as record highs were set at the beginning and near the third week of the month ranking the month as the 8th warmest on record. Temperatures were normal to below normal for several short periods during the month. Several rain

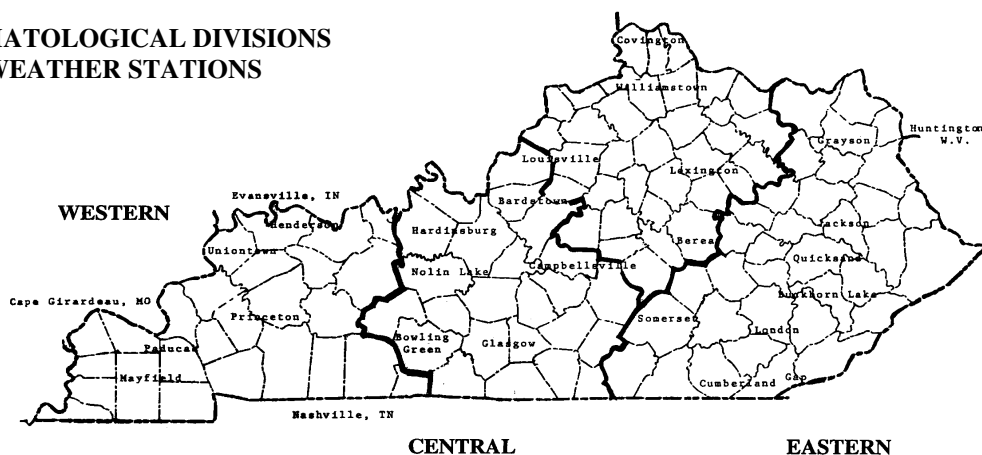
events occurred in Kentucky during the month bringing thunderstorms and occasional flooding, and it ranked as the 11th wettest November on record. Kentucky also got its first taste of mixed snow and sleet during the later parts of the month with mostly light amounts. Temperatures averaged 50.5 degrees across the State which was 3.9 degrees above normal and 6.5 degrees cooler than the previous month. Precipitation totaled 5.88 inches statewide which was 1.84 inches above normal.

**December** was quite a contrast from the very wet and warm November. Temperatures were near average for most of the month as December ranked as the 54th warmest December in the past 109 years. The month was also drier than normal. This December ranked as the 42nd driest December during the same time frame. Only the final week of December had above normal temperatures, and all weeks in December had below normal precipitation. Temperatures averaged 37.2 degrees across the State which was 0.5 degrees above normal and 13.3 degrees cooler than November. Precipitation for the period totaled 3.51 inches statewide which was 0.77 inches below normal.

Condensed version of narrative provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center. Additional Kentucky weather data are available on the internet at: <http://www.agwx.ca.uky.edu/>

#### BLUEGRASS

#### KENTUCKY CLIMATOLOGICAL DIVISIONS AND SELECTED WEATHER STATIONS



#### AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION KENTUCKY, 1900 - 2003

